

INL's Annual Honors Banquet recognizes inventors and their career patent, copyright and professional achievements.

## INL honors 102 inventors at annual banquet

by [Keith Arterburn](#), *INL Communications & Public Affairs*

Speaking on behalf of the Idaho National Laboratory and its staff, Laboratory Director John Grossenbacher recently honored 102 inventors who created 38 patented inventions and nine copyright assertions during 2008. Grossenbacher began INL's 13th Annual Honors Banquet by citing the importance of intellectual property, publications and leadership in professional organizations. "Together, these accomplishments in invention and discovery demonstrate that we are successfully researching, developing, demonstrating and deploying technology to help address some of our nation's and the world's most challenging problems," he said.

Because most award selections were known in advance, the evening's highlights were announcements of INL Inventor of the Year and INL Technician of the Year from among a group of finalists.

Energy and Environment researcher Dan Ginossar was selected as 2008 Inventor of the Year. With two new patents granted this year and three more pending, Ginossar has led two high-profile research projects during 2008 worth millions of dollars at INL. One project aims to develop "synthesis gas" catalysts; another seeks to improve biodiesel production.



***Dan Ginossar was selected as the 2008 INL Inventor of the Year.***



***Jimmy Blaylock (left) was chosen as the Technician of the Year after being nominated by his supervisor, Tom Pfeiffer.***

Jimmy Blaylock was named Technician of the Year. Blaylock, the lead electro/mechanical technician at the Materials and Fuels Complex Mock-up Shop, oversees coordination and completion of nuclear hot-cell remotely operated and glove-box-operated equipment testing, equipment installation support for both nuclear and non-nuclear facilities, and hot-cell (remotely operated) equipment maintenance support.

### **Hall of Fame elevations, lab director awards**

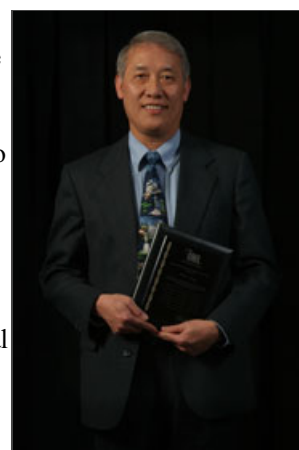
INL researcher Peter Kong earned a special "Hall of Fame" spotlight for receiving 22 patents for his inventions. Kong is the first INL inventor to reach the 20-or-more patent plateau. His research has focused on synthesizing complex chemical hydrides for hydrogen storage. He also works on advanced plasma reactor systems for nanoparticle materials production.

Nine other inventors were honored at the banquet for generating five or more patents during their careers. INL is the only national laboratory to recognize lifetime achievements for inventors who accrue five, 10, 15 and 20 U.S. patented inventions. John Richardson reached the level of 15 patented inventions this year, while Kerry Klingler, Eric Peterson, John Svoboda and Bruce Wilding graduated to the 10-patent level. Tom Luther, Christopher Orme, Edward Reber and Paul Tremblay also entered the Hall of Fame at the initial five-patent level.

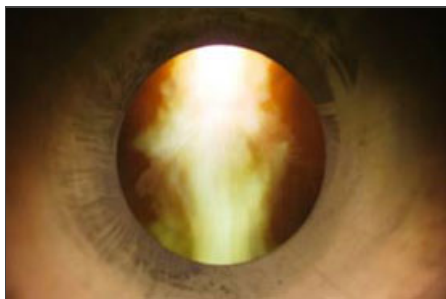
INL also presented Laboratory Director's Awards for Exceptional Achievement in engineering, science, early career achievement and lifetime achievement. These included David Thompson for engineering achievement, Vicki Thompson for scientific achievement, Leigh Martin for early career achievement and David Meikrantz for individual lifetime achievement in science and technology.

### **Hall of Fame History**

Established in 2002, the INL Hall of Fame provides public recognition and monetary awards based on levels of creativity. So far, one inventor, Kong, has been honored for 20 or more U.S. patents. Five inventors have been recognized for at least 15 U.S. patents, eight inventors for having at least 10 U.S. patents and 42 for at least five patents.



***Peter Kong was elevated to the highest level of INL's Hall of Fame for reaching 22 patented inventions during his career.***



Since the Hall of Fame's establishment, INL has inducted 56 inventors who have amassed approximately 390 inventions and received \$400,000 in recognition as part of their lifetime achievement awards. These awards are funded from licensing agreements that provide royalty income to the laboratory. Efforts to advance technologies created at INL and license them continue to pay dividends for the inventors and the laboratory.

Patents issued to INL represent the laboratory's continued success applying scientific solutions to meet challenges of industry and government. Patents generated at INL benefit industries in varied fields such as chemical research, environmental cleanup and military personnel protection. The patents also have exceptional potential in health, manufacturing, national security, nuclear and fossil-fuel energy systems, renewable energy systems and many other areas.

***Kong has been instrumental in INL's nanoparticle research. Shown here a cloud of alumina, or aluminum oxide, nanoparticles exits INL's modular plasma reactor.***

Several of the 38 patents recognized this year addressed environmental challenges, processes and materials in energy research, national security, nuclear technologies, nanomaterials, and science and industrial processing.

Banquet honorees heard farewell comments from Beth Sellers, departing Department of Energy-Idaho manager, and received a strong endorsement from interim DOE-Idaho manager, Dennis Miotla.

Sellers expressed her appreciation to those at INL who have worked with her since arriving in 2003 and wished everyone farewell as she retires from U.S. federal service. Miotla said prior to arriving at the dinner he heard a local TV anchor reporting on the honors banquet. He was pleased the reporter acknowledged INL as an impressive intellectual group who are "our friends and neighbors here in Idaho Falls."

Read the [Honors Banquet news release](#).

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